

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in Delirium Research

Debbie Cheeseman, MBA, BSc (Hons), RGN - Consultant Nurse for Older People
Chris Lovegrove, BSc (Hons) OT - Clinical Lead Occupational Therapist

Background

In the formulation of a research question for a Systematic Review, patients, carers and staff were asked about their research priorities for delirium in older adults in hospital. This work was done in collaboration with NIHR PenCLAHRC.

Peninsular Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care

Methods

Social media was used to recruit participants. Using a questionnaire, they were asked four questions about their views of delirium in older adults in hospital.

Results

Using thematic analysis, the responses were coded and developed into three themes:

1. Detection of delirium
2. Competence of staff
3. Support for patients and families

Staff Nurse

"We don't do enough to find delirium in older patients, we assume all confusion is dementia, even when they weren't confused yesterday! That can't be dementia, but we don't think what else it is."

Staff Nurse

"I don't feel confident to tell families it's a delirium, I call in the psych liaison team to diagnose it. I've never been given any training, even though I nurse older people. I hardly hear anyone explain delirium to families"

Psychiatric Nurse

"It's important to detect delirium as early as possible but staff often miss the cues because they don't understand the condition"

Psychiatric Nurse

"Staff often assume all older people just get confused and don't take it seriously. There must be so many patients who's delirium goes undetected because staff don't have the training"

Doctor

"With the demographic shift, understanding delirium in hospital is so important, we need to understand it better"

Carer

"I believe the staff cared for my Grandad, but once they had treated his heart they weren't bothered about his confusion, but that was what was bothering him the most."



Conclusion

There was consensus that more research is needed in delirium management of older adults in hospital. The main concern was under-detection of delirium in hospital for this patient group.

Systematic Review Research Question

'Under-detection of delirium in older adults in hospital; a comprehensive systematic review'

The protocol for this systematic review has now been registered with the Joanna Briggs Institute Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports.